

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AID-05
IGA-02 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /100 W
-----071621Z 055112 /53

R 071208Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2984
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1347

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ET, US, SO, FT
SUBJ: MEETING OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE WITH ACTING
MINISTER OF DEFENSE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1176 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON FEB 24, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE,
ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE AND CHMAAG, CALLED ON KIFLE WORKU,
PERMSEC IN MINDEF WHO WAS TEMPORARILY IN CHARGE
IN ABSENCE MINDEF THEN IN YUGOSLAVIA. CONVERSATION COVERED
MUCH OF SAME GROUND DISCUSSED EARLIER SAME DAY WITH ACTING
FONMIN GETACHEW KIBRET AND REPORTED REFTEL. EPMG CONCERN
ABOUT WAR RESERVE AMMO REQUEST CAME THROUGH CLEARLY, BUT
THERE WERE NO OTHER MAJOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS

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AT THIS TIME. ATMOSHPERE OF MEETING WAS FRIENDLY THROUGH-
OUT AND GENERALLY RELAXED. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, KIFLE
ACKNOWLEDGED EPMG WAS SEEKING ARMS PURCHASES ELSEWHERE
WITH SOME SUCCESS, BUT THAT EPMG STILL WISHED CONTINUE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH USG AND HAS
APPRECIATED U.S. SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

1. AFTER SEELYE OPENED CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO LONG-STANDING US/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONSHIP WHICH USG DESIRES CONTINUE WHERE POSSIBLE IN AREAS THAT MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, AND NOTING U.S. SYMPATHY FOR SOME OF ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL PROGRAMS AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF TFAI, SEELYE INQUIRED ABOUT IDEAS OF HOW U.S. COULD HELP IN HORN. KIFLE REPLIED OBLIQUELY BY POINTING TO 24-YEAR SECURITY ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, FACT THAT ETHIOPIAN FORCES ARE 90 PERCENT U.S.-EQUIPPED AND THAT SECURITY OF HORN IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST. IN SPITE OF SOME ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND LONG DELIVERY LEAD TIMES, EPMG HAS APPRECIATED USG SUPPORT. LEAD TIMES ARE CAUSING SOME DIFFICULTIES, THUS ETHIOPIA STILL AWAITS REMAINING M-60 TANKS AND ACTION ON ITS LARGE REQUEST FOR WAR RESERVE AMMO. PROBLEMS IN HORN GROWING WORRISOME BECAUSE OF SOMALIA'S ARMS BUILDUP.

2. SEELYE RESPONDED BY NOTING SOME DELAY AS ADMINISTRATIONS CHANGED IN U.S., BUT THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION IS SHOWING MUCH SYMPATHY FOR AFRICA AND THIS SHOULD BE BENEFICIAL. AT SAME TIME, ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE CLEAR ITS CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WILL HENCEFORTH BE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS. ALSO, MANY IN CONGRESS ARE NOW ASKING WHY U.S. IS HELPING A REGIME THAT IS OFTEN CRITICAL OF US AND TAKES SO MANY INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS OPPOSITE TO OURS. WE WILL BE CONTINUING TO OFFER FMS CREDIT AND CASH SALES AND TO KEEP IN MIND EPMG NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS AND DO WHAT WE CAN.

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3. KIFLE SAID EPMG HAS SOUGHT ARMS PURCHASES ELSEWHERE WITH SOME SUCCESS, BUT WISHED CONTINUE PURCHASES FROM U.S. WHICH HAS BEEN ITS PRIMARY SUPPLIER. TURNING TO HORN, SEELYE COMMENTED THAT IT NOT CLEAR WHAT U.S. MIGHT DO TO RESTRAIN SOMALIS, BUT HOPES COALITION GOVT CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN TFAI. HE WONDERED WHETHER SOVIETS COULD OR WOULD RESTRAIN SOMALIS. AFTER NOTING NEED FOR MILITARY BALANCE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, KIFLE SAID THAT ONE MUST UNDERSTAND "STUBBORN" SOMALI CHARACTER TO KNOW THAT NO OUTSIDE RESTRAINTS WILL WORK. SOVIETS MIGHT TRY PREVENT OVERT SOMALI AGGRESSION BUT NOT SUBVERSION. SOMALI GUERRILLAS WERE ALREADY OPERATING INSIDE ETHIOPIA.

4. ON TFAI, KIFLE CONTINUED, IF SOMALIS SUCCEED, FRENCH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE. FRENCH MUST UNDERSTAND NEED TO MAINTAIN BALANCE THERE UNTIL PEOPLE THEMSELVES CAN DECIDE THEIR FUTURE. FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE AFTER

INDEPENDENCE NOT A VIALBE SOLUTION, AND OAU NOT PREPARED
PROVIDE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. WHEN SEELYE OBSERVED HE
THROUGHT PARIS ROUNDTALBE ON TFAI WAS EVIDENCE
OF FRENCH EVEN-HANDEDNESS, KIFLE DEMURRED SAYING FRENCH
ARENOT EXERCISING CONTROL OVER TFAI AS BEFORE AND
ARE RELUCTANT TO INSULATE ADMINISTRATION OF TERRITORY
FROM SOMALIS. ETHIOPIA HAD TRIED MANY TIMES TO DISCUSS
ISSUE WITH SOALIS, BUT SOMALIS HAD ALWAYS REFUSED AND
REITERATED THEIR POSITION. OAU EFFORTS HAD ALSO FAILED
FOR SAME REASON.

5. CHARGE INQUIRED WHETHER THERE ARE ANY CURRENT SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS NOW THAT PEACE SPARK RESOLVED. BG
AFEWORK ATLEBACHEW WHO ALSO PRESENT SAID OVERALL EFFORT
TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN VERY GOOD. MAJOR OUTSTANDING
PROBLEM IS EPMG REQUEST FOR WAR RESERVE AMMO. ONE
PARTICULARLY ACUTE PROBLEM WAS TANK AMMO. HE UNDER-
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STOOD ONE TYPE IS NO LONGER SUSPENDED AND HOPED THIS
MIGHT BE SEPARATED OUT FROM WAR RESERVE REQUEST FOR
EXPEDITED ACTION. SEELYE SAID WE WOULD LOOK INTO
POSSIBILITY AND ADVISE. (COMMENT: MAAG HAS ALREADY
INQUIRED OF DSAA AND DEPT OF ARMY ABOUT SUBSTITUTING
TYPE NO LONGER SUSPENDED FOR ONE IN ESISTING CASE.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING ANSWER.)

6. SEELYE THEN CONCLUDED MEETINB BY OBSERVING THAT
IN FMS AREAS, CONGRESS IN INCREASINGLY EXERCISING ITS
PREROGATIVES, BUT THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS FEELING
THAT TOO MANY ARMS ARE BEING EXPORTED ALL OVER WORLD
AND THAT MULTILATERAL APPROACH IS NEEDED TO SOLVE
PROBLEM.
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